



FOSTER PEPPER PLLC

August 25, 2009

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Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall
600 4th Avenue, 2nd Floor
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Re: Appeal of Hearing Examiner's Recommendation
Seattle Children's Major Institution Master Plan
CF 308884

FILED
CITY OF SEATTLE
2009 AUG 25 AM 11:04
CITY CLERK

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of a coalition of Major Institutions in the City of Seattle, we hereby file this appeal of the Hearing Examiner's recommendation in this matter.

Standing to file appeal. The Major Institutions that comprise this coalition for the purposes of this appeal include the following:

- Harborview Medical Center
- North Seattle Community College
- Northwest Hospital
- Seattle Central Community College
- Seattle Pacific University
- Seattle University
- South Seattle Community College
- Swedish Medical Center
- University of Washington
- Virginia Mason Medical Center

These institutions are substantially affected by or interested in the Hearing Examiner recommendation. They are all subject to provisions of the same Major Institutions Land Use Code and requirements for approval of a Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP) as Seattle Children's. The Code requires that the Hearing Examiner balance the reasons for and public benefits of Major Institution development with the need to maintain the livability and vitality of adjacent neighborhoods. This is an important decision that has the potential to affect every Major Institution, not just Seattle Children's.

Objections to the Hearing Examiner's recommendation. The Major Institutions believe that the Hearing Examiner's recommendation does not strike an appropriate balance. We believe that the recommendation provided too little recognition of the reasons for and public benefits of institutional development. As a group, Seattle's hospitals, universities, and colleges

provide vitally-needed public services that comprise a significant component of our city's economic and social well-being.

The health care and educational services provided by the Major Institutions are essential to our community. Hospitals save lives. They offer compassionate care and hope to our families, friends and neighbors when fear paralyzes their ability to cope. Hospitals are producing advancements in medical research and technology that allow us to diagnose and treat illnesses faster and easier. Seattle's universities and colleges provide higher education to over 100,000 students each year. They provide the knowledge, advancement, and tools necessary for the improvement of every aspect of our society, including our businesses, institutions, and governments, and they provide world class educational opportunities to an increasingly diverse student population. Last year, the universities brought in over \$1 billion in research funding. In the challenging economic times we face today, the worker re-training programs of the community colleges are particularly essential to the lives of many people.

Seattle has long been recognized as a leader in the fields of education, medicine, and technological/biomedical innovation, most of which is fostered at our Major Institutions. The work performed at these institutions has a fundamental impact on our economy. Five years ago, the Major Institutions engaged a study of the Major Institutions' economic impact in the City of Seattle. This study showed that the Major Institutions directly employed 53,000 people, which represents 20% of Seattle's workforce, and indirectly provided 163,000 jobs through the "ripple effect." They contributed over \$2.5 billion in annual salaries and wages and spent over \$2.6 billion annually in goods and services.

Importantly, the Hearing Examiner did not take into consideration that Major Institutions have limited choices regarding where to locate their facilities which must be functionally integrated with each other. It is impractical to assume that a hospital can build a new wing anywhere other than in an immediately adjacent location, since physical proximity is usually required for the sharing of medical personnel and equipment. The same is generally true of university and college facilities.

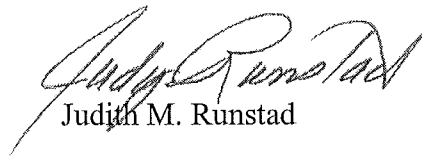
As all the Major Institutions strive to do in the MIMP process, Seattle Children's worked with its Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to revise its proposal in response to public comments. The hospital even purchased adjacent property at great expense to divert its growth away from residential areas. After lengthy discussions and plan changes, the CAC voted in favor of the proposed MIMP and the City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) recommended in favor of the plan. The CAC and DPD believe that the potential impacts would be sufficiently mitigated and the MIMP should be approved.

Relief sought. The Seattle Children's proposed MIMP should not be denied. It should be approved with appropriate conditions as recommended by the CAC and DPD. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Walsh", with a stylized, flowing script.

Thomas M. Walsh

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith Runstad", with a stylized, flowing script.

Judith M. Runstad

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